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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Evaluation of Czechoslovak Pharmaceuticals

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF [redacted]

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samples of five Czechoslovak pharmaceuticals which were obtained during early 1950 by an American importer.

1. The samples evaluated are as follows:

   a. Pedrolon, a compound similar in its therapeutic use to ephederine or synepherine.

   b. Neopeviton, an anti-spasmotic, useful in the treatment of vascular disorders.

   c. Pelentan, a diocumerol derivative, used to prolong the clotting time of blood.

   d. Alkiron, a thiouracil derivative.

   e. Abigen E, a compound of parahydroxybenzoic acid.

2. The evaluations of the samples tested are as follows:

   a. General.

   (1) The packaging of these products is inferior to that usually associated with pharmaceutical products of the USA. The cellophane covering on various packages is of poor quality and quite fragile. The label of the Alkiron bottle was not firmly glued and easily became detached. The Pelentan tablets were packed in cardboard tubes with loose fitting plastic caps, whereas in the USA similar products are distributed in glass or transparent plastic containers with screw caps. The tablets and contents of ampoules are comparable with regard to appearance and physical properties to similar USA products.

   b. Pedrolon.

   (1) The sample is identified as an aqueous solution of paredrine hydrobromide (d,l-1-P-hydroxyphenyl-2-aminopropane hydrobromide) and sodium chloride. The active ingredients are those specified on the label.

   c. Neopeviton.

   (1) The sample is identified as an aqueous solution containing 29.5 mg./cc. of nicotinic acid. The nicotinic acid content determined corresponds to 98.3% of the amount declared on the label.

   d. Pelentan.

   (1) The tablets were determined to contain as an active ingredient bis-(4-hydroxy-2-oxo-3-δ benzopyranyl) acetic acid ethyl ester as declared on the label.

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25X1A

e. Alkiron.

(1) The sample was determined to contain 0.058 grams of methylthiouracil per tablet. This corresponds to an excess of 16% over the declared amount. The excess of the active ingredient is not positively established because the analytical method employed was not specifically designed for the determination of this particular thiouracil derivative.

f. Abegin E.

(1) This crystalline substance was identified as ethyl P-hydroxybenzoate. Its melting range (115-116° C.) indicates that it is of the same degree of purity as identical material supplied by the Eastman Kodak Company. It is noted, however, that a trace of ethyl benzoate is detectable by its odor.

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